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Changing Role Seen For Latin Alliance's Committee of Nine

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Staff Reporter

Five of the "Nine Wise Men" of the Alliance for Progress have left, or soon will do so.

Among them is Raul Saez, coordinator of the group more formally known as the Committee of Nine. Saez, a Chilean, was one of many hemispheric leaders mentioned for the chairmanship of the newly-formed Comité Interamericana de la Alianza para el Progreso.

Carlos Sanz de Santamaria of Colombia was given the CIAP job. Formation of that committee, an attempt to "Latinize" the Alliance, is one of many factors in the departure of the five Wise Men.

The Alliance charter signed three years ago provided for the panel of nine experts who would evaluate the national plans to be submitted by the Latin American nations as blueprints of economic and social developments.

Opinions of the experts would largely determine the amount of foreign aid the nations would receive. Nine experts, some with international reputations, were chosen for three-year terms beginning in January, 1962.

The original coordinator was Raul Prebisch. Other commitments soon forced his resignation. He is now head of the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development in Geneva. Saez, Prebisch's replacement, will leave by July to return to the directorship of Chile's big government-owned electrical industry.

Part of the reason for the exodus from the Committee seems to be just the lure of other positions, coupled with the fact that the three-year commitment is now over two-thirds met.

But the changing structure of the Alliance has played its part, according to sources close to the Nine. Founders of the Alliance recall a bit bitterly that originally the Nine were to have been the "Latinizing" agent, with a

strong mandate allowing them virtually to cut off funds from nations laggard in reforms.

The United States reluctantly bought the multilateral approach, but Argentina, Mexico and Brazil figured they could do better by dealing directly with the main source of funds, the United States. The result was a compromise that sheared off much of the Nine's power.

Still, the Nine proved vigorous not only in criticizing submitted national plans but in calling for changes in the Alliance itself. The Committee of Nine suggested the study that resulted in formation of CIAP.

Gradually Argentina and Mexico have swung toward the position of the smaller countries and the planners until with CIAP, a multilateral direction of the Alliance may be possible. Advocates of this approach, including the Nine, say the Latins may be sterner enforcers of reform among themselves than the United States could be.

But even if this power potential is realized it will rest in CIAP, with the Nine expected to evolve into a technical adjunct.

CIAP, with the seven members under Sanz de Santamaria chosen for geographic representation, will take up the Alliance's considerable political tasks.

Accordingly, new appointees to the \$20,000-a-year positions on the Committee of Nine are expected to be more technically than politically oriented. A nominating committee drawn from hemispheric agencies is expected to meet this month after resolving the question of the role of CIAP in selecting the new generation of Wise Men.

Those leaving besides Saez include:

- Manuel Noriega Morales, already returned to his native Guatemala to head a technical institute. He is an economist who has worked closely with

Best known of those remaining is Paul Rosenstein-Rodan, a British citizen and author. He alone of the Nine holds another job simultaneously, as professor of economics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Other members are Brazilian Romulo Almeida, Argentine Ernesto Malaccorto and Cuban Felipe Pazos, all economists and all as far as is known planning to stay at least through Dec. 31.

Author Perloff—asked if he thought the Alliance augmented by still another committee, could achieve the lofty goals of planned economic growth—posed several conditions based on the intent of the participants and said, "At least now it has a chance." He added that he intends to do a lot of writing about his Inter-American experiences.



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Morales Perloff
... leaving Alliance

Central America's economic integration.

- Harvey S. Perloff, author and educator in the field of economic planning and the only U.S. national among the Nine. He has agreed to serve out his term ending Dec. 31 if needed before returning to the job he left two years ago, program director for the private research foundation here, Resources for the Future.

- Jorge Grieve, an engineer who was a Peruvian delegate to the Punta del Este conference that set up the Alliance.

- Hernando Agudelo Villa, Columbian lawyer and economist who like many of the Nine has also held important political appointments.

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